

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER NO. 98-712

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT

FOR

LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORPORATION  
RED BLUFF VG MILL AND JAMB PLANT SITE  
TEHAMA COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (hereafter Board) finds that:

1. Louisiana-Pacific Corporation (L-P) operated a Vertical Grain (VG) Mill and Jamb plant from 1974 to 1990 in the City of Red Bluff, Tehama County. L-P purchased the site in 1974 from Commander Industries (formerly Corona Box Company) and closed the site in 1990. The site is in Section 29, T27N, R3W, MDB&M and consist of five parcels. L-P owns Assessor's Parcel Numbers 033-130-08, 033-130-09, 033-130-10 and 033-130-30 and lease a portion of APN 033-130-11 from South Pacific Transportation Company. Surface water drainage is to Reeds Creek, tributary to the Sacramento River.
2. The beneficial uses of Reeds Creek and the Sacramento River are municipal and domestic, industrial, and agricultural supply; water contact and noncontact recreation; esthetics enjoyment; navigation; groundwater recharge, fresh water replenishment; hydroelectric power generation; and preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife and other aquatic resources.
3. The beneficial uses of groundwater are municipal, domestic, industrial and agricultural supply.
4. In the mid 1960's the Corona Box Company began making ammunition boxes for shipment to Southeast Asia. To prevent deterioration, the ammunition boxes were treated with pentachlorophenol. The fungicide dip system was installed and used until the mid 1970's, while the ammunition boxes were produced. In the mid 70's two finger joint machines were added to the facility and the jamb plant began operating. Ureaformaldehyde glues were used in the finger joint process. L-P purchased the facility in 1974 and continued to operate the jamb plant and set up a VG line in the box factory. L-P indicated they did not use the dip tank and constructed a maintenance shop over the tank in 1976. The site was closed in 1990 and all of the improvements on-site have been dismantled and removed including the concrete foundation and floor slabs.

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5. L-P submitted a report titled *Initial Soils Report, VG Mill and Jamb Plant Site, Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, Red Bluff, California* prepared by SHN Consulting Engineers & Geologist dated February 1996 in response to a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment which indicated the former facility had a pentachlorophenol dip system. The soils investigation found high concentrations of the Organic Persistent and Bioaccumulative Toxic Substances pentachlorophenol and high total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) contamination in and around the old fungicide dip system. The site contamination by the wood treating compounds pentachlorophenol, and tetrachlorophenol may pose a threat to human health and the environment.
6. L-P submitted a report on 23 January 1998 titled *Groundwater Update, VG Mill and Jamb Plant Site, Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, Red Bluff, California* prepared by SHN Consulting Engineers & Geologist dated November 1997. The report indicated the pentachlorophenol levels were as high as 26,000  $\Phi$ g/l and total petroleum hydrocarbon as diesel levels as high as 310,000  $\Phi$ g/l in groundwater. The highest pentachlorophenol results are associated with Monitoring Well MW-1 located in the immediate vicinity of the old dip tank. The highest diesel levels are associated with Monitoring Well MW-4, located approximately 100 feet north of the dip tank.
7. L-P submitted a report dated 6 April 1998 titled *1998 Work Plan, Site Characterization Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, VG Mill and Jamb Plant Site, Red Bluff, California* prepared by SHN Consulting Engineers & Geologist. The report establishes a time schedule to further characterize the site, to complete and submit a soils remedial action plan and to complete a design plan for groundwater remediation.
8. The discharge of pentachlorophenol and petroleum constituents have created and threaten to continue to create a condition of nuisance or pollution. If the pentachlorophenol and petroleum contaminated soil is not removed, the condition of pollution and nuisance will continue and further degradation of groundwater may occur.
9. The issuance of this Order is in accordance with Section 13304(a) of the California Water Code, which states:

"Any person who has discharged or discharges waste into the waters of this State in violation of any waste discharge requirements or other order or prohibition issued by a regional board or a state board or who has caused or permitted, causes or permits, or threatens to cause or permit any waste to be discharged or deposited where it is, or probably will be, discharged into the waters of the State and creates, or threatens to create, a condition of pollution or nuisance, shall upon order of the Regional Board clean up such waste or abate the effects thereof or, in the case of threatened pollution or nuisance, take other necessary remedial action. Upon failure of any person to comply with such cleanup or abatement order, the Attorney General, at the request of the Board, shall petition the Superior Court of the County for the issuance of an injunction

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requiring such person to comply therewith. In any such suit, the court shall have jurisdiction to grant a prohibitory or mandatory injunction, either preliminary or permanent, as the facts may warrant."

9. The issuance of this Order is an enforcement action by a regulatory agency and, as such, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.), in accordance with Section 15231(a)(2), Title 14, California Code of Regulations.
10. Any person affected adversely by this action of the Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board to review the action. The petition must be received by the State Board within 30 days of the date of this Order. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions will be provided upon request.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to Section 13304 of the California Water Code, Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, shall comply with the following:

1. Initiate, forthwith site cleanup of pentachlorophenol and petroleum contaminated soil at the L-P Red Bluff VG Mill and Jamb Plant Site by implementing the following:
  - a) Submit **by 19 May 1998**, a Soils Remedial Action Plan for the removal of contaminated soils, detailing treatment and final disposition of soil.
  - b) Initiate **by 1 July 1998**, removal of contaminated soils with a pentachlorophenol concentration in excess of 1 mg/kg and total petroleum hydrocarbon in excess of 100 mg/kg.
  - c) Submit **by 31 October 1998**, a Soils Activity Report detailing actions completed.
2. Initiate, forthwith site cleanup of the groundwater at the L-P Red Bluff VG Mill and Jamb Plant Site, implementing the *1998 Work Plan, Site Characterization Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, VG Mill and Jamb Plant Site, Red Bluff, California* by the following:
  - a) Submit **by 26 May 1998**, a Groundwater Sampling Plan.
  - b) Submit **by 1 July 1998**, complete soil borings, shallow monitoring wells, and deep monitoring wells installation.
  - c) Submit **by 1 August 1998**, complete aquifer testing and well survey.
  - d) Submit **by 16 February 1999**, a design plan for groundwater remediation.

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- Failure to comply with a cleanup and abatement order or dates specified may result in further enforcement actions under Section 13350 of the California Water Code, which may result in civil monetary penalties up to a maximum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for each day of violation.

by: JAMES C. PEDRI, Assistant  
Executive Officer

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